

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI) today announced Wisconsin will receive \$196 million in weatherization and energy efficiency funding – including \$141 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program and \$55 million for the State Energy Program. The funding is part of a nationwide investment, announced today by the White House, of nearly \$8 billion under the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – an investment that may put up to 100,000 Americans to work.

"As our state and country continue to confront this global economic crisis these energy efficiency funds are expected to provide greatly needed jobs in our community," said Congresswoman Moore. "The investments that we in Congress and President Obama have made towards helping America become energy independent will go a long way in ensuring new green jobs are created in the 21st Century economy as well as confronting the environmental challenges we face."

The funding will support weatherization of homes, including adding more insulation, sealing leaks and modernizing heating and air conditioning equipment, which will realize significant energy cost savings.

"Even as we seize the enormous potential of clean energy sources like wind and solar, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes a major investment in energy efficiency, which is the most cost effective route to energy independence," said Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

The Weatherization Assistance Program will allow an average investment of up to \$6,500 per home in energy efficiency upgrades and will be available for families making up to 200% of the federal poverty level – or about \$44,000 a year for a family of four.

The State Energy Program funding will be available for rebates to consumers for home energy audits or other energy saving improvements; development of renewable energy projects for clean electricity generation and alternative fuels; promotion of Energy Star products; efficiency upgrades for state and local government buildings; and other innovative state efforts to help save families money on their energy bills.

The DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program allows low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient, reducing heating bills by an average of 32% and overall energy bills by hundreds of dollars per year.

"As many families struggle with whether to put food on their table or heat their homes, the funding that the Recovery package provides will try to help reduce the numbers of families that are faced with this terrible decision every day," said Rep. Moore. "There is no silver bullet for our economic woes. In order for our country to endure and thrive during these difficult times it will take continued investments in our communities to ensure that the gains we expect are sustained and long-lasting."

###